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EINGEGANGEN	
18. MÄRZ 2003	
HOFFMANN - EITLE PATENT- UND RECHTSANWÄLTE PATENT- UND RECHTSANWÄLTE	

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Datum/Date
17.03.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 82 954 a/km	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 00111832.2-2213/
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Keyence Corporation	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well. 01



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 00 11 1832

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
X	US 5 281 810 A (FOOKS ELIK I ET AL) 25 January 1994 (1994-01-25) * column 2, line 57 - line 68 * * column 4, line 23 - line 29 * * column 6, line 2 - column 7, line 4 * * column 9, line 10 - column 10, line 34 * * figures 1-4 * ----	1,6-10, 19,20	G01V8/12 G01V3/12 H03K17/94
A	DE 297 07 451 U (SICK AG) 3 July 1997 (1997-07-03) * page 3, paragraph 2 - page 4, paragraph 3 * * page 5, paragraph 3 * * page 8, paragraph 4 - page 10, paragraph 1 * * figures 1-4 * -----	1,6-10, 19,20	
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
MUNICH	26 February 2003	Schneiderbauer, K	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application		
O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons		
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1, 6-10, 19, 20

A photoelectric switch device with two adjacent walls, one of which has display means and with the other means positioned on the two walls, having

- selection means as one of the other means

2. Claims: 2, 3, 11-14

A photoelectric switch device with two adjacent walls, one of which has display means and with the other means positioned on the two walls, having

- fixing means as one of the other means

3. Claims: 4, 5, 15-18

A photoelectric switch device with two adjacent walls, one of which has display means and with the other means positioned on the two walls, having

- setting means as one of the other means

4. Claims: 21-26

A photoelectric switch device with two adjacent walls, one of which has display means and with the other means positioned on the two walls, having

- shielding means as one of the other means

5. Claims: 27-43

A photoelectric switch device with two adjacent walls, one of which has display means and with the other means positioned on the two walls, having

- optical means as one of the other means

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 11 1832

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-02-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			DE	69326428 T2	05-01-2000
			EP	0606015 A1	13-07-1994
			JP	2551732 B2	06-11-1996
			JP	7092266 A	07-04-1995

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